

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OSU freshman class is a record-breaker

CORVALLIS — The largest freshman class in a decade will enter Oregon State University when classes begin Sept. 28.

University officials say the dramatic increase in enrollment has forced them to make room for 600 new students without any extra state money for additional classes and services.

But OSU said it has prepared for a jump in enrollment by setting aside money in advance. The university plans to use \$240,000 of that money for fall term.

OSU expects 14,800 students to take classes in the fall, a 4.5 percent increase over last year's enrollment of 14,127 students. The largest student increase comes from the new freshman class. OSU expects 13 percent more first-year students to take classes this year.

"I think it just confirms that students are liking what they see here," said Andrew Hashimoto, associate provost of academic affairs. "Students are not only coming here, but they're staying here."

But with many courses already crammed, officials have scurried to add new classes in required subjects and more labs for sciences. University housing has also had to turn some students away because OSU's dorms are almost full.

Oregon Zoo recants on parking fee plan

PORTLAND — Plans to charge for parking at the Oregon Zoo have been dropped after a barrage of complaints and hundreds of canceled memberships.

Parking fees were supposed to

go into effect Sept. 21 to start repaying about \$4.9 million in loans used to finance the new Tri-Met light-rail station at the zoo and parking lot improvements.

Zoo Director Tony Vecchio said that judging from complaints, the parking fees would have had "a significant impact" on attendance that now averages 1 million a year. "We would have survived it, but we would have felt it," Vecchio said.

Even with a \$1 increase for parking, the adult zoo admission of \$6.50 would be below other West Coast zoos and still under the national average of about \$6.75, Vecchio said. Admission to the San Diego Zoo is \$15.

Metro, the agency that oversees the three metropolitan Portland-area counties, still needs to find about \$435,000 a year for 20 years to repay the light-rail loans.

Campaign touches Portland council

PORTLAND — A controversial proposal to amend or abolish the city's anti-camping ordinance left Mayor Vera Katz and the rest of the City Council speechless, a rare moment in Portland politics.

Katz and City Commissioners Jim Francesconi, Charlie Hales, Gretchen Miller Kafoury and Erik Sten did not comment after a nine-minute presentation by members of Campaign for Legal Places to Sleep.

In a letter read by two Legal Places members — Ted Doronila and Sharon Pearson — the group requested action from the council within 30 days.

The issue of homeless camping has received considerable attention this year following can-

cellation in April of police action forcing campers to leave a camp area. The sweep was canceled as a result of a protest planned by homeless advocates.

After the meeting, Kafoury said the council would cooperate and provide "some kind of response."

"Our lack of comments was not disinterest," she said.

The camping ordinance has survived legal challenges but remains the target of opposition from homeless advocates. In fact, Legal Places is one of two groups working to have the council reconsider use of the ordinance. Another group is working with police to make camp sweeps less disruptive.

Five arrested at research center

HILLSBORO — Five people, including a veterinarian, were arrested after they tried to block the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center entrance to protest medical research on animals.

The five, including Portland veterinarian Sherry Speede, a longtime animal-rights activist, were charged with criminal trespassing and disorderly conduct. They were among about 25 demonstrators who gathered at the center Sept. 9.

Six other demonstrators locked their arms into 42-gallon oil drums partly filled with concrete that were placed across the center's entry road starting about 4:30 a.m., Hillsboro police Cmdr. Andy Schroder said.

After officers arrived about 5 a.m. and started to move one of the barrels to allow traffic to go past, Speede and the four allegedly interfered with the effort and were arrested, Schroder said.

Time for a study break!



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